

THE MACON BEACON

66th YEAR

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Work of Corn Club Boy

I am a farmer boy and have lived on a farm all my life. I have always lived in the same community. I am only 15 years of age. In 1910 the superintendent of education of the county organized a Boys' Corn Club. I joined it and turned under the turf in the fall and sowed Rye on the land. In the spring I put lot manure on the land and broke it about 8 inches deep. The people around here laughed at me, and said I would not make five bushels, but when my corn began to grow they changed their minds. I surprised them all the more when I gathered 78 bushels on my acre, while the average yield in this county was only 12 to 18 bushels per acre, this being about all Papa made. Since the Corn club has been started in this county, Papa has tried diversification of crops and followed the demonstration instructions until now his average yield is from 60 to 70 bushels per acre. Every year since I first joined the Corn club I have continued to have an acre plot for myself to put in corn. I can beat Papa making corn.

In the fall of 1913 I joined the Corn club again. I began the preparation of my soil. I turned under the cowpea stubble and broke my land 10 to 13 inches deep. I sowed oats and rye on the land and harrowed it in with a section harrow. The oats and rye came up and I used it for a pasture for my Jersey calf and two pigs, and it kept them in good fix all through the winter and gave them a better start in the spring. In the spring I turned the sod under, harrowed it with the section harrow, and then bedded the land. I sowed lot manure in the drills and filled the furrow with an oak leaf compound; then I rebeked the land, mixing the humus with the soil. I then let the soil stand untouched until in May; I rebeked the land, put out 300 pounds of commercial fertilizer in the drill. I followed this with a spring-tooth harrow and this with the planter. My corn came up well, but the spike worms destroyed much of it. When my corn was about two weeks old, I harrowed it crosswise with a section harrow. I let it stand for about two weeks, then I harrowed the middles down with a spring-tooth harrow, and this put enough dirt to the corn, for it must be remembered that I planted in the water-furrow. Then I thinned my corn to an average of about 12 to 16 inches in the drill. Then I let the corn stand about a week when I harrowed it again with a spring-tooth harrow, and from then on until the 1st of June harrowed it with a spring-tooth harrow. The land began to get dry, as it had not rained for weeks. I went two furrows to the row with a heel sweep, and every time I went around my corn it looked like a shower had fallen. Then on July 2d or 3rd I laid my corn by with a heel sweep, and put out 300 pounds more of commercial fertilizer around my corn, and on the following day it rained and my corn looked fine, but by the way I had forgotten to say we had a drouth lasting ten weeks, beginning in May and lasting until July, and it was interrupted only once by a small shower in ten long weeks, and you see a rain was badly needed. While the drouth was going on corn all around me was burning up while mine was perfectly green and doing well.

In October, when time came to gather corn, I got three disinterested men to gather my corn. I went ahead and picked out the best grade seed, and I made three grades and had it gathered separately so I could have good seed. I made 106.35 bushels on my acre while the average yield around me was only 15 bushels per acre. I then had 35 bushels of first grade seed corn, 42 bushels of second grade, and 17 bushels of third grade, and 12 bushels of nubbins.

I have sold all my corn, the first grade at \$2.00 per bushel, second grade at \$1.75, while I sold the third grade at \$1.00 per bushel, making \$161.50 plus the nubbins.

I am going to buy me a full bred Hereford bull with my corn money, and Papa is going to give me a heifer.

I have cut my corn stalks, turned them under, and now I have a good crop of Crimson Clover growing on my acre, and the people around here are following the method I used to raise my corn,

and I think the average yield will increase fifty per cent in two years. Most of the people are going to try rotation crops and not plant much cotton, and are going to help make Mississippi a self-sustaining state. I expect to do better next year, as I shall have my soil better prepared. I shall be with you until the last.

In the meantime, I beg to remain,
A Corn Club Boy,
ROY ASHLEY.

Corn Club Work in Noxubee

A number of inquiries have been made recently about corn club work in this county. Nothing has been said through the newspapers so far about this work, but that is no indication that no interest is being manifested. For two years previous to last year Noxubee stood first in good reports in this congressional district. Last year there were but six boys who reported on their corn crop and only four of these gave their yields. No prizes were given because of this limited number as I would not ask the county to appropriate the \$50 which the law allows and which they had willingly appropriated the two previous years. I did expect though to get \$50 from the county school fund an appropriation the county superintendent of education is authorized by the last legislature to give. That may still be gotten.

Three good reports were sent in and others sent in reports, giving methods of working their corn, though their crops were failures. Every boy should have done that. I wish a few boys in this county would take the deep and lasting interest in growing corn that Roy Ashley, of Smith county, did.

In regard to the work for this year I know of a number of boys who have already joined, and several who have spoken of joining. We want boys this year who mean business. Ten boys who are really interested and really want to make a record are worth more to the club work than 100 who don't care whether they succeed or not. I should like for the teachers of the county to send in the names of the boys in their respective schools who will become really interested in the work this year.

In connection with the corn club work I want to say that any boy of corn club age can plant one acre of Spanish peanuts instead of the corn, or he may have both. A cash prize of \$25 will be given for the best yield of peanuts.

The day is not far distant when peanuts will be regarded in the south as a food crop almost on a par with corn. This cash prize is being offered, not so much to encourage the production of peanuts for the market as it is to show the possibilities of the land too thin to work profitably in corn, but which, if planted in peanuts, will produce an abundance of food good for any livestock. The land selected for peanuts should be land that in your judgment is too poor to make a good yield of corn.

I will be glad to communicate further with any boy who will plant an acre in peanuts, as I may be able to advise him about the selection of the land and about fertilizing for the crop. This prize will not be given unless as many as four boys enter the contest and give in reports according to instructions. Any boy who wants to join the corn club should send in his names at once.

The boys who deserve special mention for good work done last year are Minor Mauldin, Macon; Zack Franklin, route 8, Crawford; and Hallie Clark, Maahulaville. The \$50 we hope to get from the school fund will be divided among these boys.

J. W. HADDON, Agent.

To Bring Test Suit.

Capt. J. C. Johnson, State Revenue Agent, has determined to file suit in Hinds county against merchants and other cotton buyers to test his right to collect back taxes on cotton held by buyers on the first of February, the date on which all assessments for taxation are supposed to be made. Cotton and other farm products is exempt so long as in the hands of the producer, but the Revenue Agent claims that it is taxable the moment it leaves the farm and passes into the hands of the buyers. No matter which way the case goes in the lower court there will be an appeal, and in the event the Revenue Agent should win in the Supreme court cotton buyers will be called on to pay millions into state, county and city treasuries. —Yazoo City News.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS.

Examination for white will be held at the court house on April 2nd and 3d and 16th and 17th.

Colored examination at colored school house, in Macon, April 9th and 10th and 23d and 24th.

J. R. JACKSON, Supt.

EASTER SUNDAY

"Christ is risen." The choirs sing about it. The preachers proclaim it. The multitudes believe it. Does it seem strange that because a small group of sad-eyed, discouraged men and women, almost two thousand years ago, suddenly came to believe that a Man they had loved had returned to life after being executed on the cross, people should still believe it today? Nineteen centuries is a long time, and Palestine is far away. How is it that the belief of the first Christians has laid hold upon us?

It is not enough to explain it as an old tradition, handed down from generation to generation. If the experience of the apostles and the three Marys and the five hundred brethren to whom He made Himself known were the only reason for keeping Easter, it is not probable that Easter would still be kept. Faith that is only handed on does not survive as this faith has survived. There must be another reason.

The other reason is that there has never been an age since the first Christian age until now when there were not among the peoples of the earth those to whom Christ had become a living person. The healing of the seamless dress has been by beds of pain. In the midst of the storm and the stress of life, despairing men and women have reached out to touch Him, and they have touched Him and been made whole again. Martyrs, stretched on the agonizing rack, have heard Him. Other martyrs, bound among the burning fagots, have seen Him in the fire. Tempted men have sought Him in the hour of their temptation, and His arm has sustained them. Such as they do not need to be told that long ago, on a Sunday morning in the spring, the grave released Him. They know that He is released, for He has become the living power of their lives.

When the eleven, after the tragic death of Judas, chose a twelfth apostle, they did so that he might become a witness with them of the resurrection. Since then, from all nations and tribes, a great company whom God alone can number has been added to the chain of witnesses. Daily their number is increased. Easter is Easter, not because Jesus rose long ago, but because Jesus still lives, and because there are among us those who know that He lives. —Youth's Companion.

President Woodrow Wilson says "There is a shortage of food in the world now. That shortage will be more serious a few months from now than it is now. It is necessary that we should plant a great deal more. It is necessary that our land should yield more per acre than it does now. It is necessary that there should not be a plow or a spade idle in this country if the world is to be fed."

There is no doubt about it that President Wilson is right—that there is a serious food shortage, and that all food is going to be high. On the other hand, nobody says there is a shortage of cotton or tobacco. In the face of such conditions what parliamentary language will describe a man who deliberately sets out to raise low-priced cotton—or tobacco—to buy high-priced food and feedstuffs? —Progressive Farmer.

There is grave danger that the recent slight rise in cotton prices will have a bad influence on acreage reduction; in fact, there is evidence already, particularly in the western part of the belt, that acreage reduction will not be as great as was once thought. Southern farmers, by holding back their cotton and refusing to accept prices less than the cost of production, are winning a great victory, and it will be a pity indeed to spoil it all now by planting another big crop. We repeat that there's only one safe plan, and that consists of living at home and making cotton our surplus crop. The man who feeds himself this year will most likely be the man who will have money in the bank next fall. —Progressive Farmer.

One value of only shallow cultivation after the crop is planted is often overlooked. When deep cultivation is practiced weed seeds are constantly being turned up to sprout and increase the need for constant cultivation. But when only shallow cultivation is practiced the weed seeds near enough the surface to germinate, sprout and are killed and later cultivation is reduced to only such as is necessary to conserve or save moisture. —Progressive Farmer.

Macon Boosters' Trade Association

We, the undersigned members of the above Association in order to stimulate trade in Macon have decided to inaugurate a voting contest for the purpose of sending the lady receiving the greatest number of votes to the Panama Exposition at San Francisco, Cal., paying all railroad and Pullman fares, ten (10) tickets admission to the Fair, and \$150 in cash, or \$250 cash in Macon.

This money is now on deposit in the bank. Any Noxubee County lady desiring to enter the Contest may do so by notifying the President, W. M. Lamberson.

Votes will be issued by any member of the Association at the rate of two votes for every one cent for cash purchases or money received on account.

This Contest will close Saturday night, July 31, 1915, at midnight. This contest will be conducted on a fair and square basis. No favorites—but all will be treated alike. Help your friends by making this never-to-be-forgotten trip possible.

GET IN THE CONTEST NOW. Make your purchases and secure your votes at the following places:

W. M. Lamberson, Pre.	C. H. Spessard, Sec
L. F. Holberg,	Ed. M. Murphey,
Geo. B. Richmond.	A. Klaus & Co.,
D. C. Jordan,	Cannon & Co.,
H. M. Jones,	Ed. B. Owens,
Patty Dry Goods Co.	C. D. Featherston,
Horseshoe Gro. Co.	Book Store,
H. Miller,	N. Scales,
J. H. Williams.	